MAHARIA): (a) to (c) During the 2002-03 a sum of Rs. 24,176.45 crore was released as subsidy on foodgrains by the Government of India. Out of this Rs. 5,742.69 crore was released for export of foodgrains during the same year.

The quantity of rice and wheat sold by the Food Corporation of India for export (including direct export by State Agencies) during 2002-03 was as under:

(in Lakhs MTs)

Rice	80.72
Wheat	67.93

Starvation due to drought and flood

998. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any strategy in consultation with the State Governments to ensure that starvation deaths are not perpetuated by disasters like drought and floods; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The State Governments are primarily responsible for providing relief in the affected areas in the wake of natural calamities out of the corpus of CRF, which is contributed by the Government of India and State Governments in the ratio 3:1. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing logistic and financial support.

The approved items of assistance in the wake of natural calamities include gratuitous relief, supplementary nutrition, assistance to small and marginal farmers, assistance for additional requirements for employment generation, assistance to fishermen, assistance repair/ restoration of damaged houses, provision for a temporary accommodation,

food, clothing and medical care etc. of people affected/evacuated.

No starvation death has been reported by any State Government/UT. A quantity of 893.46 lakh tonnes and 535.19 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been allocated by the Central Government to the State Governments/ UTs under various welfare schemes and TPDS during 2002-03 and 2003-04 (upto September-October, 2003) respectively.

Buffer stock of foodgrains

999. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the existing buffer stocks of foodgrains with Government;

(b) whether after providing foodgrains to drought-hit States, the food-stocks are sufficient to meet the country's requirements;

(c) if so, whether in view of better monsoon and production of wheat and rice, Government have further decided to release the same to the exporters;

(d) whether fresh arrivals of stocks of foodgrains have reached; and

(e) if so, to what extent the present position of stocks of foodgrains is sufficient to meet the future demands in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The existing buffer stocks of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) against buffer norms of stocks during the current year is an under:

(In Lakh Tonnes)

Date	Stock	Buffer Norms
01.01.2003	482.02	168.00
01.04.2003	328.02	158.00
01.07.2003	351.68	243.00
01.10.2003	236.68	181.00